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(54) Media handling in an ink-jet printer

(57) Described herein is a printer having a printhead (102) which traverses laterally across a sheetlike print medium (110) and which thereby defines a laterally-extending print zone across the print medium. A paper transport mechanism in the printer has drive rollers (114) and associated pinch wheels (180) to drive the print medium through the printer's print zone. The paper transport mechanism further includes an upper print media guide (202) and a lower print medium guide (126). The two print medium guides are shaped at their transverse ends to bow the transverse edges of the print medium downwardly to reduce its tendency to buckle up-

wardly into the printhead. In order to fit the upper print medium guide into the limited available space above the drive rollers, it is made of a lower molded portion (170) for paper contact and an upper backing portion (172) for rigidity. A pinch finger (191) extends toward the printer's print zone beyond the pinch wheels to establish a pinch point (192) against the drive roller in near proximity to the print zone. To facilitate ejection of printed pages, the upper print medium guide is formed with a series of ribs (204) which contact the paper. The ribs reduce friction and static buildup, and make it easier to push the paper from the paper transport mechanism.

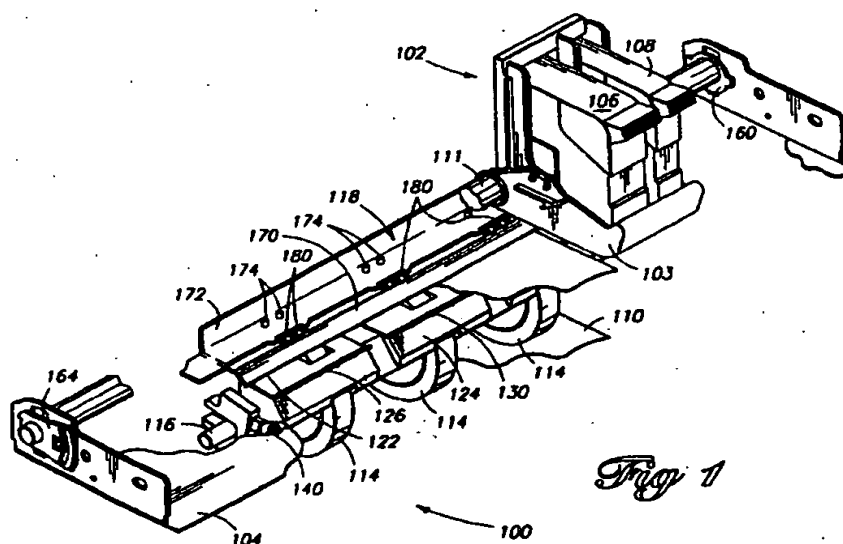


Fig. 1



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 96301348.7
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 6)
A	US 5393151 A (MARTIN et al.) 28 February 1995 (28.02.95), the whole document. ---	1, 3	B 41 J 13/10 B 41 J 11/00
A	EP 0622227 A2 (TOKYO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.) 02 November 1994 (02.11.94), the whole document. ---	1-3	
A, P	US 5419644 A (MARTIN et al.) 30 May 1995 (30.05.95), the whole document. ---	1	
A	EP 0487080 A1 (TOKYO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.) 27 May 1992 (27.05.92), the whole document. ---	1, 2	
A	EP 0441448 A1 (N.V. PHILIPS' GLOEILAMPEN- FABRIEKEN) 14 August 1991 (14.08.91), the whole document. ----	1, 2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 6)  B 41 J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search  VIENNA		Date of completion of the search  06-05-1998	Examiner  WITTMANN
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			